

Filed for intro on 05/11/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SJR0217
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the problems of Alzheimer's Disease and to develop comprehensive legislation to address the problems of the family and victims of Alzheimer's in the state of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's Disease is a chronic disease that reportedly affects one in ten American families and an estimated four million Americans; and

WHEREAS, ten percent to fifteen percent of people over the age of sixty-five, will be affected with Alzheimer's Disease, along with fifty percent of the people over the age of eighty-five. Alzheimer's Disease and other memory loss diseases are found in people as young as in their thirties and forties. Early diagnosis can be valuable both medically and socially; and

WHEREAS, the eighty-five and older age group is the fastest growing demographic group in the nation; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that Alzheimer's Disease costs the country 82.7 billion dollars a year in medical expenses and lost productivity. It is the nation's third most expensive health problem. If the progression of the disease could be delayed, it would prolong the time before one would require full-time care which would save billions of dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, it is postulated that early intervention in the form of work therapy and socialization with peers may help participants to maintain their current functional level for a longer period of time. Furthermore, such repetitious work and concentration may suspend the rapid loss of memory and mental function; and

WHEREAS, the need for full-service adult day care and perhaps eventually nursing home placement is pushed back for an indefinite period of time due to the Adaptive Work Service program in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the Adaptive Work Service program uses work as the therapeutic intervention for individuals who are in the early stages of memory loss; and

WHEREAS, the Adaptive Work Service program provides safe and stimulating work in a supportive environment for those individuals who have been diagnosed with mild-to- moderate memory impairment resulting from a dementia such as Alzheimer's Disease or a related disorder. Furthermore, Adaptive Work Services provides an environment of support and acceptance that encourages hope and self-worth in the lives of those who are experiencing memory loss; and

WHEREAS, Adaptive Work Services gives families respite from the stress placed on them by the day to day living with someone experiencing memory loss and provides emotional and physical relief for the family and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, Adaptive Work Services is the only program of its kind in the nation providing employment for otherwise normal adults with mild-to-moderate memory loss; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly further examines Alzheimer's Disease as it affects many of our state's citizens; it is also appropriate that this Assembly should consider such worthy programs as Adaptive Work Services when discussing treatment options available in our state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING,

That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the necessity of creating legislation relative to Alzheimer's in the state of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be composed of three (3) members of the Senate and three (3) member of the House of Representative, to be appointed by the respective Speakers, three (3) primary caregivers for Alzheimer's patients, and two (2) individuals knowledgeable about the disease of Alzheimer's.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a plan of action be recommended to address the problems facing the families and victims of Alzheimer's revealed in such study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that at the request of the chair, all appropriate agencies of state government shall provide staff assistance to the special joint committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members appointed to the special committee who are duly elected members of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and shall be paid as members of the General Assembly are paid for attending legislative meetings as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect from its membership any officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports to the 1996 session of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1996, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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